

REMARKS

Claims 1-113 are pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-113 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over James (U.S. Patent No. 6,069,310) in view of Tien et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,452) (hereinafter "Tien").

Applicants respectfully submit that Tien is not prior art. The present application has a U.S. filing date of September 28, 2000 and priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 has been claimed to a foreign application filed on September 28, 1999. Tien has a U.S. filing date of November 1, 1999. Because the foreign priority application was filed before the U.S. filing date of Tien, Tien does not qualify as prior art under § 102(e) and the rejection of claims 1-113 under § 103(a) must be withdrawn. See MPEP 2136.03.

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.55(a)(4), Applicants are submitting herewith an English translation of the foreign application.

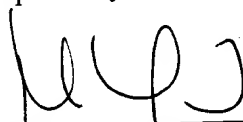
If the Examiner feels that it would advance the prosecution of the application, it is respectfully requested that he telephone the undersigned attorney.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032020500.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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Enclosure:

English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 11-274476